(vi) In order to provide quality education to talented children predominantly from rural areas, the scheme of Navodaya Vidyalayas has been launched. Reservation of seats in favour of children belonging to SCs and STs is provided. The SC enrolment accounts for 20.18 per cent and that of ST enrolment 11-2-per cent.

(vii) Central Institute of Indian Languages and National Council of Educational Research and Training have taken up a number of tribal languages for preparation of primers, readers, collection of folklore, books for NFE etc. Central Institute of Indian Languages has also taken up about 75 tribal languages under this programme. It is also working in liaison with many State Governments for bilingual education programmes for ST students at early primary education stages.

At the State level, Departments of Education, Harijan Welfare, Tribal Welfare and Social Welfare have educational programmes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The domain of other activities vary from State to State. However, opening of educational institutions, preparation of curricula and conducting of examinations generally come under the perview of education departments. Many incentive schemes exclusively for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes like provision of scholarships, free uniforms, mid-day meals, residential facilities etc. are also being taken up by the Welfare Departments.

Vocational Education at graduate and post graduate level

1436. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to introduce pre-vocational education at the lower secondary stage in the schools throughout the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what facilities have been provided by Government at plus two stage of school education in the country with details thereof; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to introduce vocational education at Graduate and Post Graduate level in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) It has been decided to introduce Pre-vocational Education at the lower secondary stage (Classes IX and X). The main aims of the scheme are to impart training in simple marketable skills; to develop vocational interests, facilitate students in making choice of vocational course at plus 2 level and to inculcate healthy values related to work culture. During the 8th Plan it is proposed to start pre-vocational courses in about 1000 schools where the vocational stream at the plus 2 level has already been introduced.

(c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education, financial assistance is being provided to the State Governments/UT's on a sharing pattern for starting vocational courses at the plus 2 level. Facilities have been provided for setting up of management structures, provision of worksheds & equipment District Vocational Surveys, Workshops for teacher training and textbook preparation, in order to institutionalise the programme.

(d) In order to provide vertical mobility vocational passouts, the University Grants Commission has taken an initiative to identify the subject areas for which vocational oriented degree/diploma courses may be developed in Universities and col-

leges and modilities for their introduction.

Strategy for improving the Quality of vocational education

1437. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to evolve any multi-pronged strategy for improving the quality of vocational education in the Country during the Eighth Plan;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) how, Government propose to implement the strategy successfully throughout the Country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) For improving the quality of the Vocational Education Programme the following multi-pronged strategy has been envisaged during the Eighth Plan:

(i) Emphasis on consolidation and strengthening of the Vocational courses already started through creation of effective management structure, teacher training, curriculum development and textbook preparation and educational-employment linkages. Expanion of the programme at the plus 2 level in the country will be gradual.

(ii) Provision of pre-vocational courses at the lower secondary stage (Class IX and X) for facilitating vocational education to students who may drop out after Class X and for orientation of those joining the vocational stream at the plus 2 level.

(iii) Establishment of the Central Institute of Vocational Education as an apex level research and development institution for providing academic and technical support to the Vocational Education Programme.

Joint Council on vocational education

1438. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Joint Council of Central and State Governments on Vocational education was set up in the year 1990;

(d fi so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the said Council has submitted any report/recommendations to Government on policy planning of vocational education in the country; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government have taken to implement the suggestions/recommendations of the Joint Council?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) A Joint Council of Vocational Education (JCVE) has been set up in 1990 under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Human Resource Development at the national level for coordination, policy, planning and review of vocational education programmes. The membership of the Council includes State Education Ministers, Members of Parliament, officials representing various Ministries/Departments in the Central and State Governments, representatives of voluntary organisations Employee's Organisations, All India level professional bodies Public Ssecor undertakings, Teacher's Training Technical Institutes, Regional Boards of Apprenticeship Training, educationists and others.

State Councils of Vocational Education have been envisaged as the counterpart of JCVE at the State level